

## **City of Northampton**

Population: 28,549 (2010 U.S. Census)

Situated between the Connecticut River and the foothills of the Berkshires, Northampton offers a sophisticated rural lifestyle rich in cultural, artistic, academic, and business resources. Northampton is home to one of the most vibrant downtown centers in New England, as well as Smith College, and is neighbored closely by the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and Amherst, Hampshire, and Mount Holyoke Colleges. Northampton prides itself on its diverse, well educated, and highly skilled workforce.

Northampton has been committed to increasing energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions since the 1980s. Once designated as a Green Community in 2010, Green Community grant funds helped pay for a 106 kilowatt solar PV system on the Smith Vocational Agricultural High School's (SVAHS) campus and the purchase of an Energy Auditor/Building Performance Inspection education kit for the SCAHS Home Building Program. Students profit from these educational tools not only in knowledge but also from the sale of Solar Renewable Energy Certificates (SRECs), which bring in an estimated \$30,000 to \$80,000 annually for the city's Energy and Sustainability Project Revolving fund 1. In 2012, Northampton used Green Community funds to increase air sealing and insulation in two historic Northampton buildings: Memorial Hall and the Academy of Music.

Northampton's largest success in reducing energy use has come from a \$6.5 million energy services performance contract that has reduced energy use in city buildings by over 20 percent. As a result, Northampton is well on its way to meeting the 20 percent drop in overall municipal energy use called for in its five-year Green Communities energy reduction plan. With the help of the *Sustainable Northampton Comprehensive Plan* and ongoing support from the Green Communities Division, Northampton hopes to find efficient ways to help its residents and businesses achieve similar savings.